



The Metropolitan District
water supply · environmental services · geographic information

March 12, 2010

Testimony to the Environment Committee
Raised Bill #383 An Act Concerning a Statewide Water-Use Plan

I am here today to express the Metropolitan District Commission's (the District's) support for Raised Bill #383, An Act Concerning a State-Wide Water Use Plan. The Metropolitan District Commission is a regional agency established as a municipality in 1929 to provide water and sewer services to the Hartford region. We supply drinking water to nearly 400,000 people in our 8 member towns and other non-member towns within a 20 mile service radius.

The District views a state-wide water resource master plan as critical to all decisions involving the management of the state's water resources. Long and short term master planning has long been embraced by the District in its own continuing effort to provide its customers with an adequate supply of safe, high quality drinking water well into the future. It therefore seems logical to us that a commodity such as water, which is so critical to the health, welfare, and economic sustainability of a state would be managed similarly and viewed from a more global state-wide master planning perspective.

A state-wide water resource master plan could ultimately serve to assist with determining proper allocations of water for industry, agriculture, recreation, public utilities and other uses. Such a plan could also help to ensure that aquatic ecosystems are properly sustained, ground and surface waters are adequately protected, and also ensure that water conservation measures, public health, and public safety needs are adequately addressed. A well designed plan would also provide important state-wide coordination of all regional facility plans, water utility coordinating committee plans, and the state's plan of conservation and development. Further the importance economic development in the state must be recognized and should not suffer from the absence of good science based water resource planning.

In summary, the District strongly supports Raised Bill #383. The importance of this plan can not be overstated. With a more enlightened understanding of state-wide water resource issues a "balance" between aquatic life, public health and safety, agriculture, and economic development could be achieved which all stakeholders could agree to.

The District thanks the Committee for the opportunity to share our thoughts and offer to assist in any possible with the development of state-wide water use plan.